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A MOVIE
CLASSIC

Walt Disney's

BON VOYAGE

You'll howl
when the Willards
make their
first trip to Paris
on the
family plan!



BON VOYAGE



Bystanders are shocked, but Harry Willard takes it calmly when he finds himself boarding the *S.S. United States* via a cargo net.



Harry is a very happy man. At last he and his lovely wife Katie are going to Europe. The trip promises to be a second honeymoon.



But second honeymoons can be pretty frantic if the children are along. Soon Harry sees son Elliott flirting with the exotic Shamra.



Daughter Amy immediately loses her heart to a very rich, unpleasant young man named Nick, who has a strange outlook about life.



Paris will be better, thinks Harry. But is it? Not when Elliott climbs up on the Eiffel Tower to take a picture of a pretty girl!



Harry really becomes upset—when he finds that he has lost his younger son, Skipper, in the dark tunnels of a Paris sewer.

Walt Disney's BON VOYAGE

AT LAST, THE DREAM OF HARRY AND KATIE WILLARD IS COMING TRUE! AFTER WAITING TWENTY-ODD YEARS, THEY ARE FINALLY EMBARKING ON THEIR LONG-PLANNED TRIP TO EUROPE, TAKING WITH THEM THEIR THREE CHILDREN, AMY, ELLIOTT, AND SKIPPER...

LET'S STAY CLOSE TOGETHER SO WE WON'T GET LOST! AND DON'T GET SO EXCITED THAT YOU FORGET WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE REALLY HERE... ON THE PIER... IN NEW YORK! I KNOW I'LL WAKE UP AND FIND MYSELF BACK HOME IN TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA!



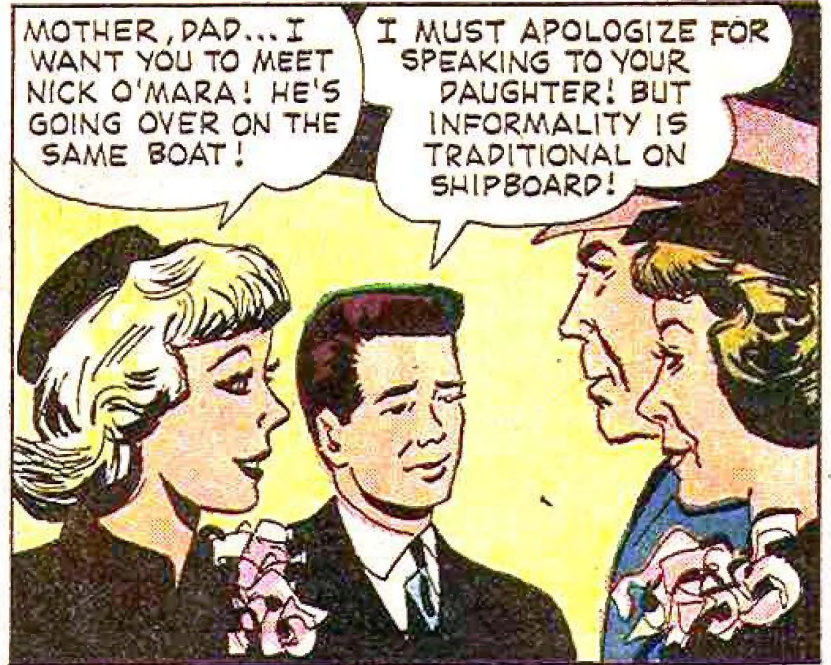
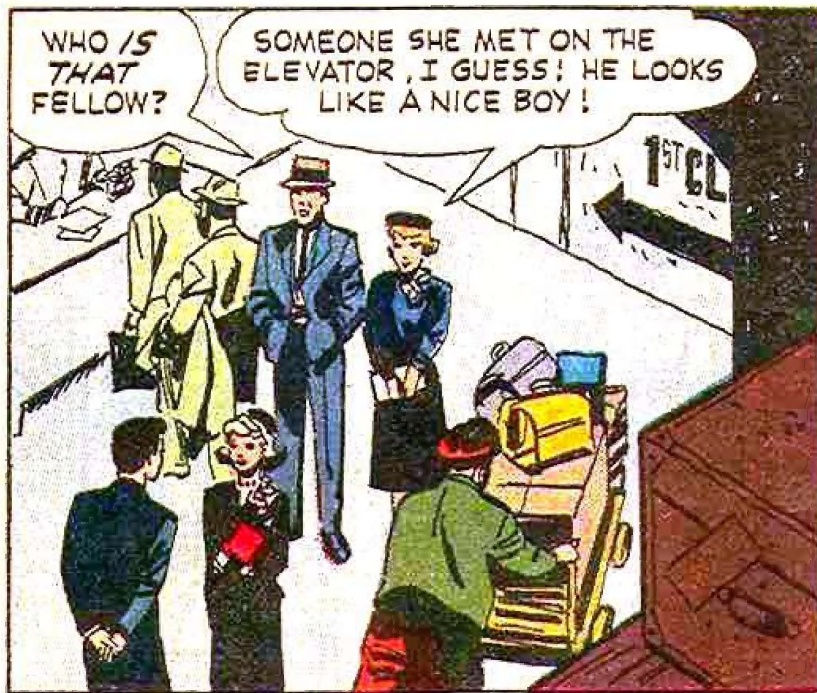
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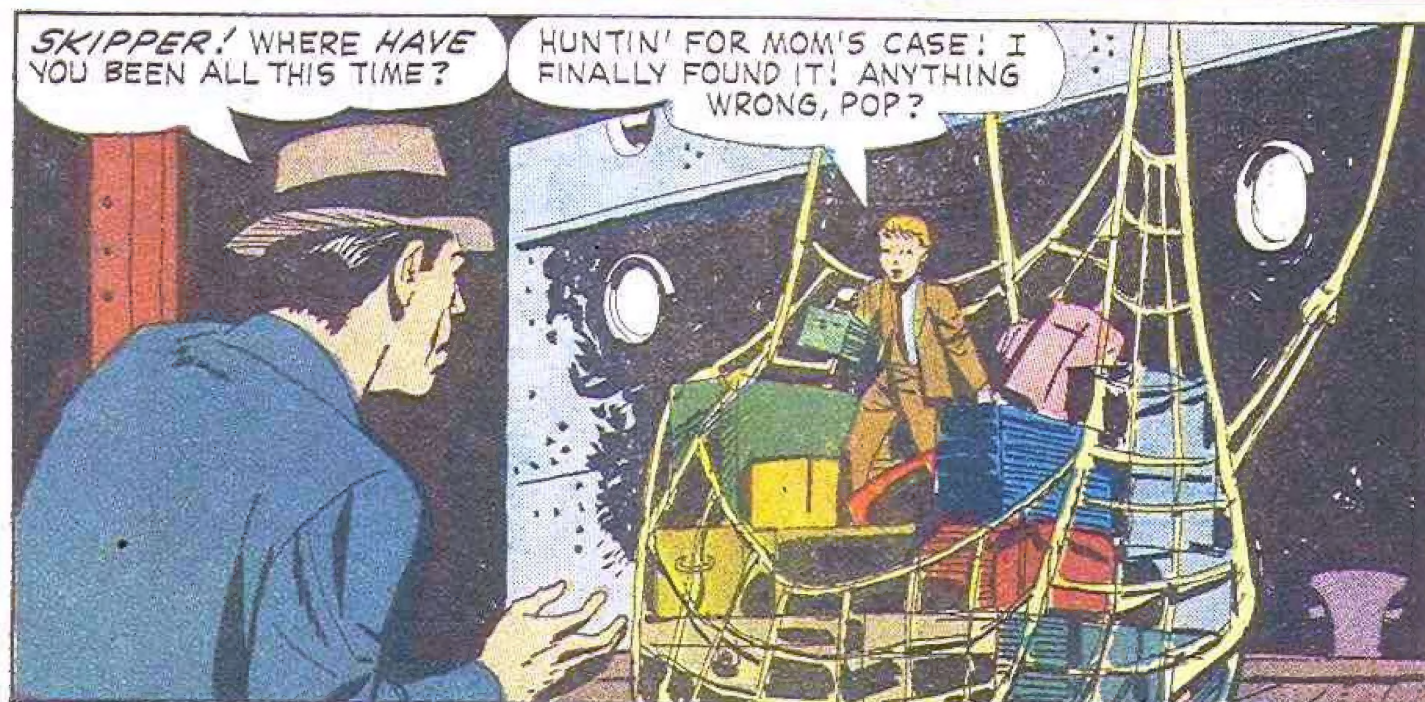
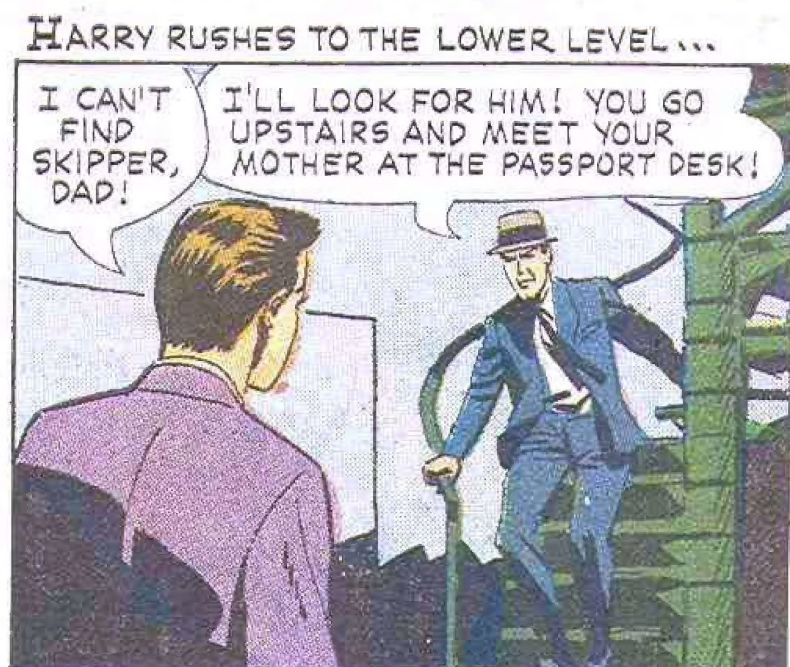
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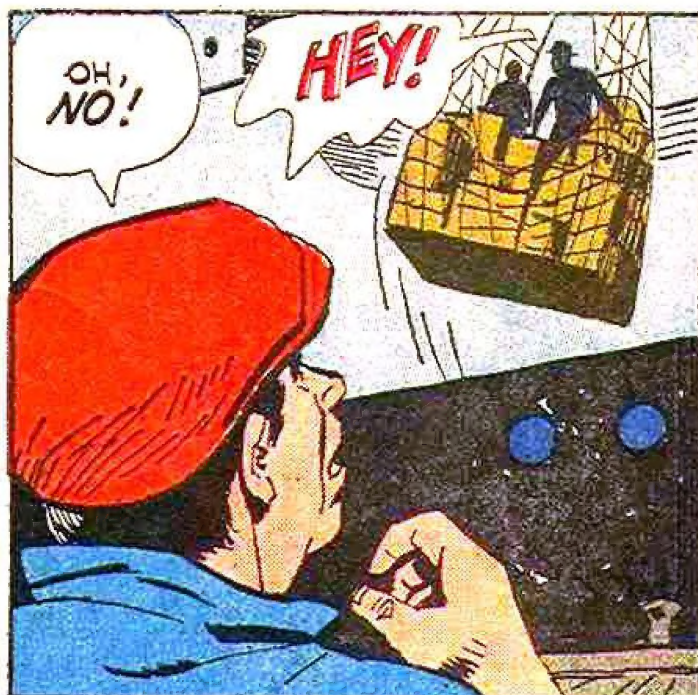


SWEPT ALONG BY THE SURGING CROWD, HARRY, KATIE, AND AMY ARE PUSHED INTO THE EMBARKATION SHED AND ON TO A WAITING ELEVATOR...

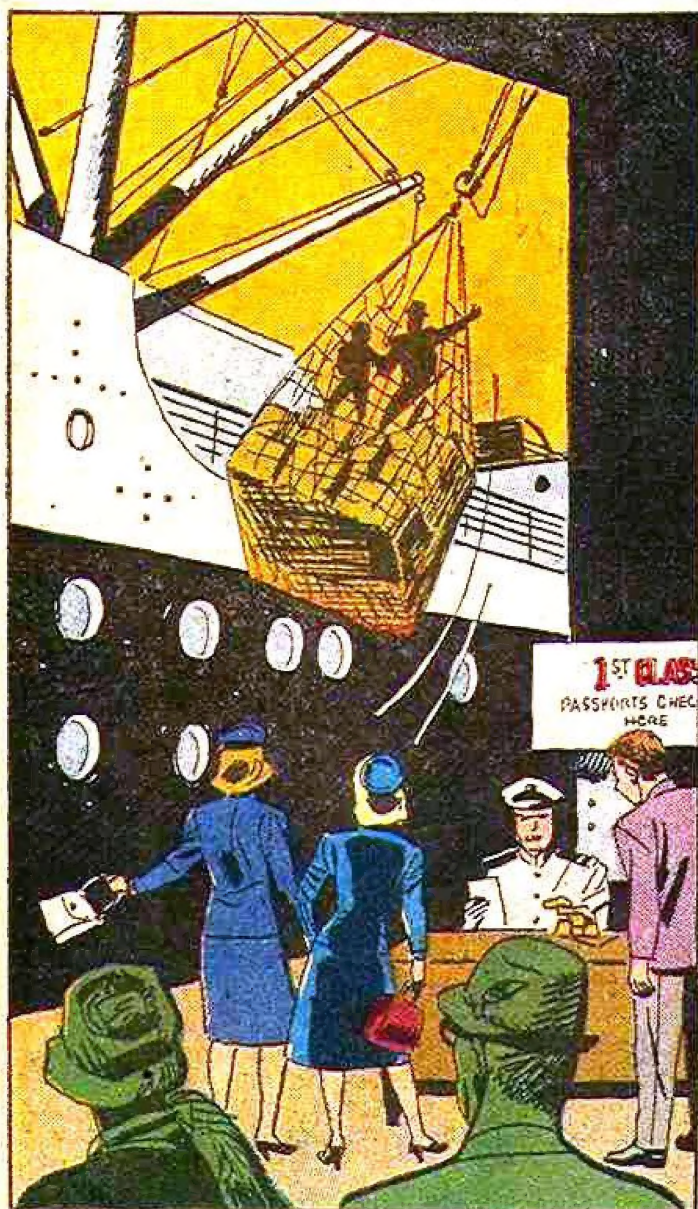








WHILE THE FAMILY LOOKS ON IN THUNDERSTRUCK SILENCE, HARRY AND SKIPPER SAIL THROUGH THE AIR TOWARD THE DECK OF THE SHIP...



HARRY AND SKIPPER ARE FINALLY UNLOADED AND GO IN SEARCH OF THEIR FAMILY...

HI! YOU'RE THE LUCKY GUY WHO CAME ABOARD IN A NET!

HOW'D YOU GET INSIDE IT?

YOU GO ON, POP! I WANT TO TALK TO THESE KIDS!

OKAY, SKIP! BUT DON'T TALK TOO LONG! YOU KNOW HOW YOUR MOTHER WORRIES!

ELLIOTT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE ALONE? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

HI, POP! I SEE YOU AND SKIP LANDED SAFELY! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!

SNAP OUT OF IT, ELLIOTT! THIS IS OUR BIG TRIP! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE FUN! WHY DON'T YOU FIND ONE OF THE PRETTY GIRLS ON BOARD?

FUN! GIRLS! WHAT A LAUGH!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, POP! I'M NOT INTERESTED IN GIRLS! I'M PRACTICALLY ENGAGED TO RUTH HAMILTON IN TERRE HAUTE! THIS TRIP'S A ZERO WITHOUT *HER*!

I WISH I COULD GO HOME!

YOU CAN! YOU'LL EITHER GET OFF THIS SHIP NOW...OR CHEER UP! NOBODY'S GOING TO SPOIL THIS TRIP FOR YOUR MOTHER! UNDERSTAND?

LATER THAT DAY, THE LINER SAILS OUT TO SEA
WITH ALL FIVE WILLARDS ABOARD...

NOW, I *KNOW*
OUR DREAM
HAS REALLY
COME TRUE!

IT SURE HAS! WE'RE
LOOKING AT THE *REAL*
STATUE OF LIBERTY...
NOT A PICTURE!

THIS IS MY THIRTEENTH
CROSSING... BUT I STILL
GET A CHARGE OUT OF
THE OLD GIRL!

OH, IT'S YOU!
WHAT TAKES
YOU BACK AND
FORTH SO
OFTEN?

NICK'S MOTHER LIVES IN
PARIS! SHE'S A *CONTESSA*,
DAD! HIS FATHER LIVES IN
NEW YORK! NICK WENT TO
SCHOOL BOTH PLACES!

NICK'S AN *ARCHITECT*! HE
JUST FINISHED GRADUATE WORK
AT YALE! HIS DRAWINGS WON AN
IMPORTANT PRIZE! HE'S GOING
TO VISIT HIS MOTHER NOW!

NICK MAY STAY IN EUROPE AND
CONTINUE HIS STUDIES THERE!

THAT'S ENOUGH ABOUT
ME, AMY! IF YOUR
PARENTS DON'T MIND,
I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND
THE SHIP!

I HOPE
SKIPPER
ISN'T
GETTING
INTO
TROUBLE!

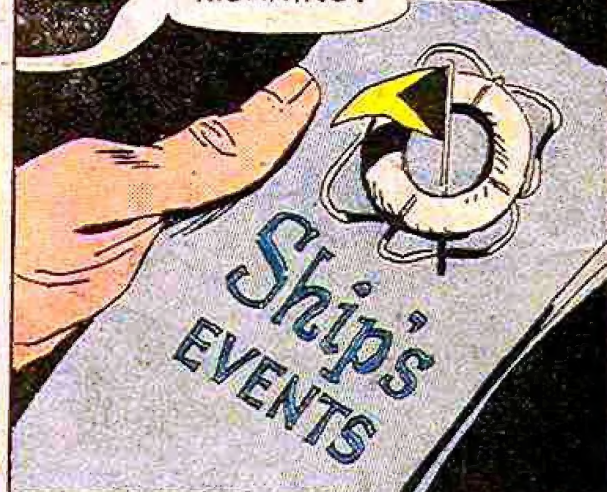
FORGET SKIPPY! I'M WORRIED
ABOUT AMY! I DON'T LIKE
THAT NICK! AND I'M WORRIED
ABOUT ELLIOTT! HE'S UNHAPPY
AND HOMESICK!



AT BREAKFAST, THE NEXT MORNING...

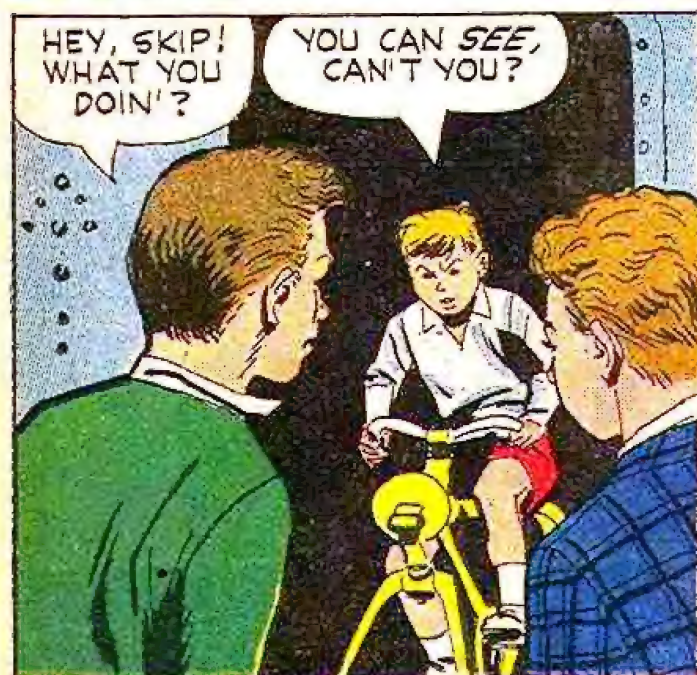
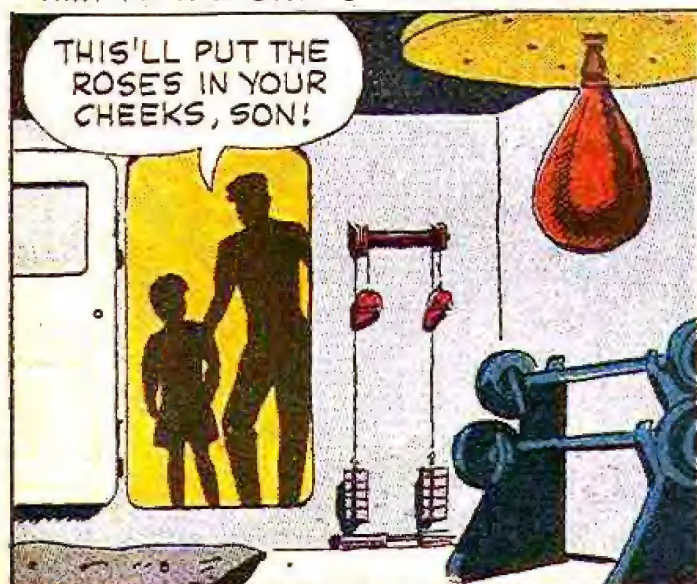


I'VE BEEN LOOKING THROUGH THIS FOLDER OF SHIP'S EVENTS! I'VE FIGURED OUT SOME THINGS THAT MIGHT BE FUN TO DO THIS MORNING!

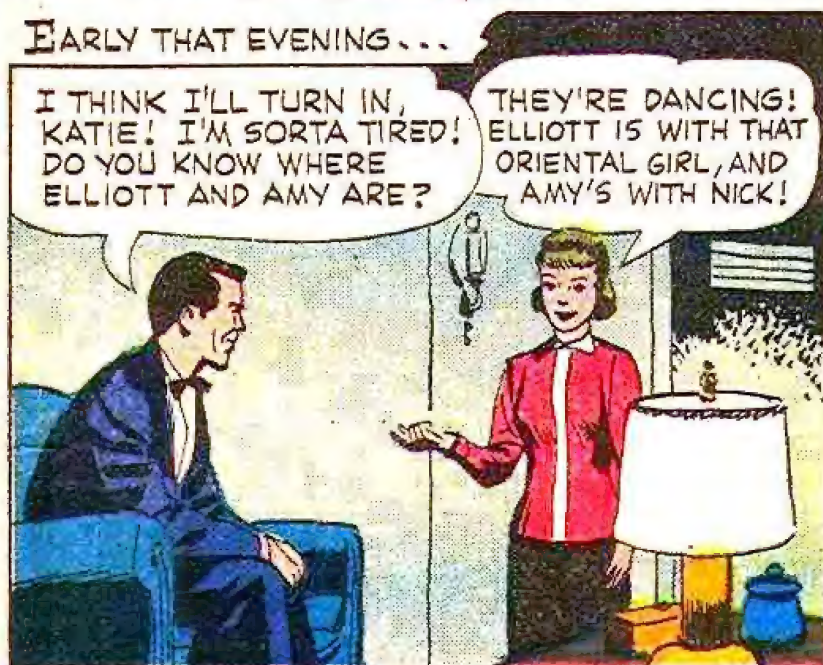




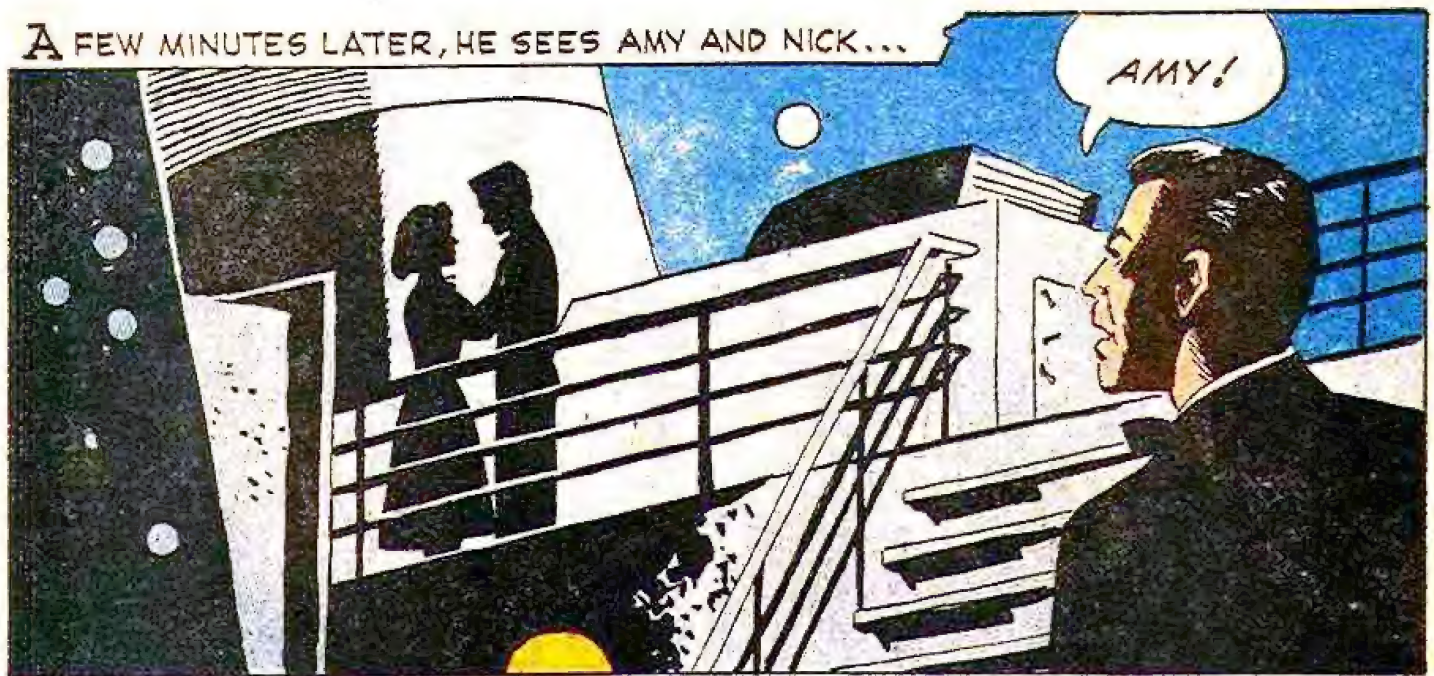
SO HARRY FINDS SKIPPER AND LEADS HIM TO THE SHIP'S GYMNASIUM...





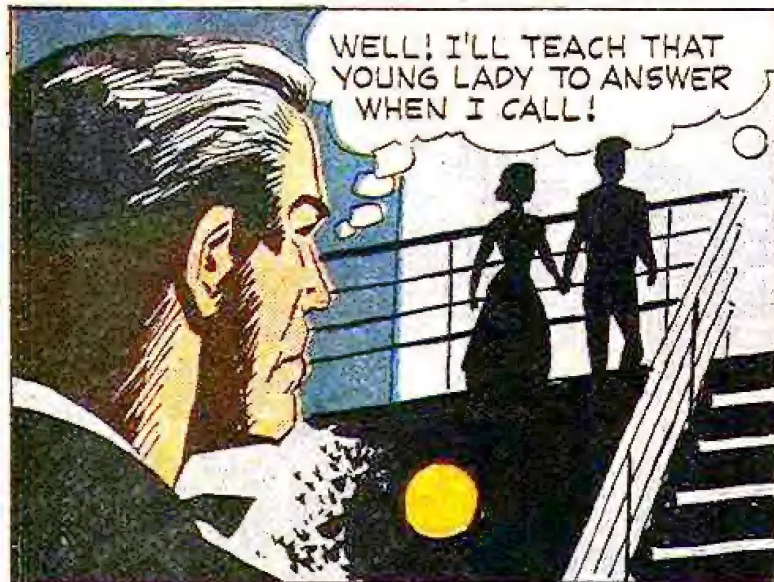


A FEW MINUTES LATER, HE SEES AMY AND NICK...



AMY!

BUT AMY WALKS AWAY WITHOUT EVEN NOTICING HARRY...OR HEARING HIS CALL...



WELL! I'LL TEACH THAT YOUNG LADY TO ANSWER WHEN I CALL!

AWW, SHE PROBABLY DIDN'T HEAR ME! GUESS I'D BETTER LEAVE 'EM ALONE! AMY HAS GROWN UP NOW!



BACK IN THE WILLARD'S CABIN...



WHAT'S WRONG, HARRY? YOU LOOK WORRIED!

I AM WORRIED...ABOUT AMY AND ELLIOTT! I DON'T LIKE THEIR NEW FRIENDS... A GIRL WITH AN OUTLANDISH NAME AND THAT SMART ALECK O'MARA KID!



YOU'RE ALL WORKED UP OVER NOTHING, HARRY! I THINK YOU'RE A TEENSY BIT TIRED AFTER YOUR DAY WITH SKIPPER!

A TEENSY BIT TIRED! I'M EXHAUSTED! I ACHE FROM MY HEAD TO MY FEET!



ONE DAY FOLLOWS ANOTHER AND, FINALLY...



HARRY IS AWAKENED BY SKIPPER'S JOYFUL WHOOPS AS HE RACES AWAY...



HARRY DECIDES TO READ INSTEAD OF SLEEP, AND GOES TO THE SHIP'S LIBRARY TO FIND A BOOK...



THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ARCHITECT, LIKE NICK, AND A PLUMBING CONTRACTOR, LIKE ME! NICK'S A NICE BOY, I GUESS!



THE NEXT DAY, THE SHIP NEARS THE FRENCH PORT, AND THE VOYAGE IS ALMOST OVER...





THE FIVE WILLARDS REACH PARIS, AT LAST, AND ARRIVE AT THEIR HOTEL AFTER A WILD, FAST TAXI RIDE...



WHILE KATIE, AMY, AND SKIPPER
EXPLORE THE OTHER ROOMS...

WHAT'S BITING
YOU NOW, MISTER
MERRY SUNSHINE?

WE'VE MADE A
TERRIBLE
MISTAKE,
POP...



WE'RE ON THE *RIGHT BANK* WITH
ALL THE *TOURISTS*! WE SHOULD BE ON
THE *LEFT BANK* WHERE THE
INTERESTING PEOPLE ARE!



NEXT, YOU'LL PROBABLY DRAG US TO
THE TOP OF THE EIFFEL TOWER...OR
SOME CORNFLAKE TOURIST STUNT
LIKE THAT!

LET'S GET THINGS
STRAIGHT, SON! WE
ARE TOURISTS!



WE'RE *NOT* PLAYBOYS, OR BUSINESS
TYCOONS, OR INTERNATIONAL SPIES!
WE'RE JUST PLAIN *TOURISTS* FROM
INDIANA! SO STOP COMPLAINING...
OR YOU'LL GO HOME ON THE NEXT
ECONOMY-FARE PLANE!



WE SURE LIKE
THIS HOTEL,
DON'T WE,
ELLIOTT?

IT'S THE
GREATEST,
MOM!

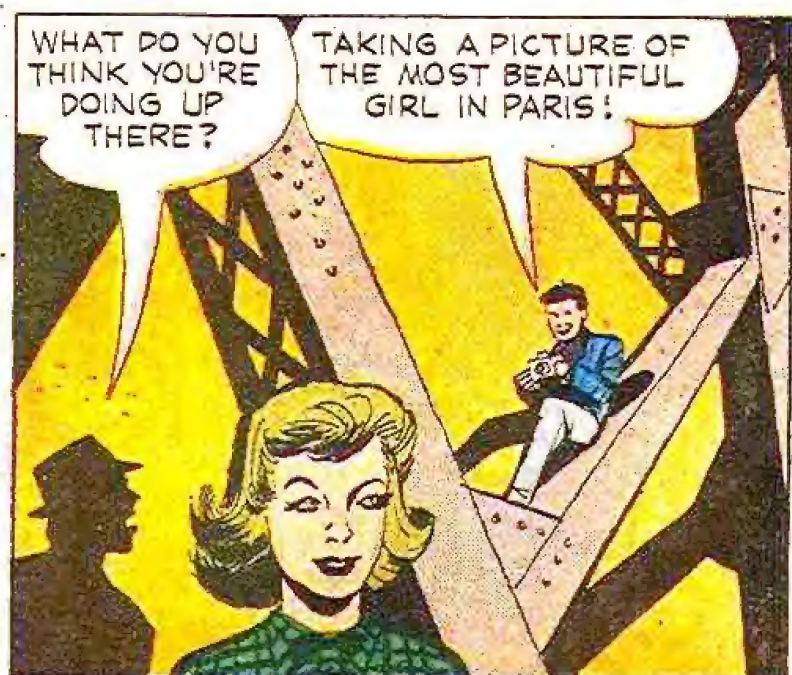
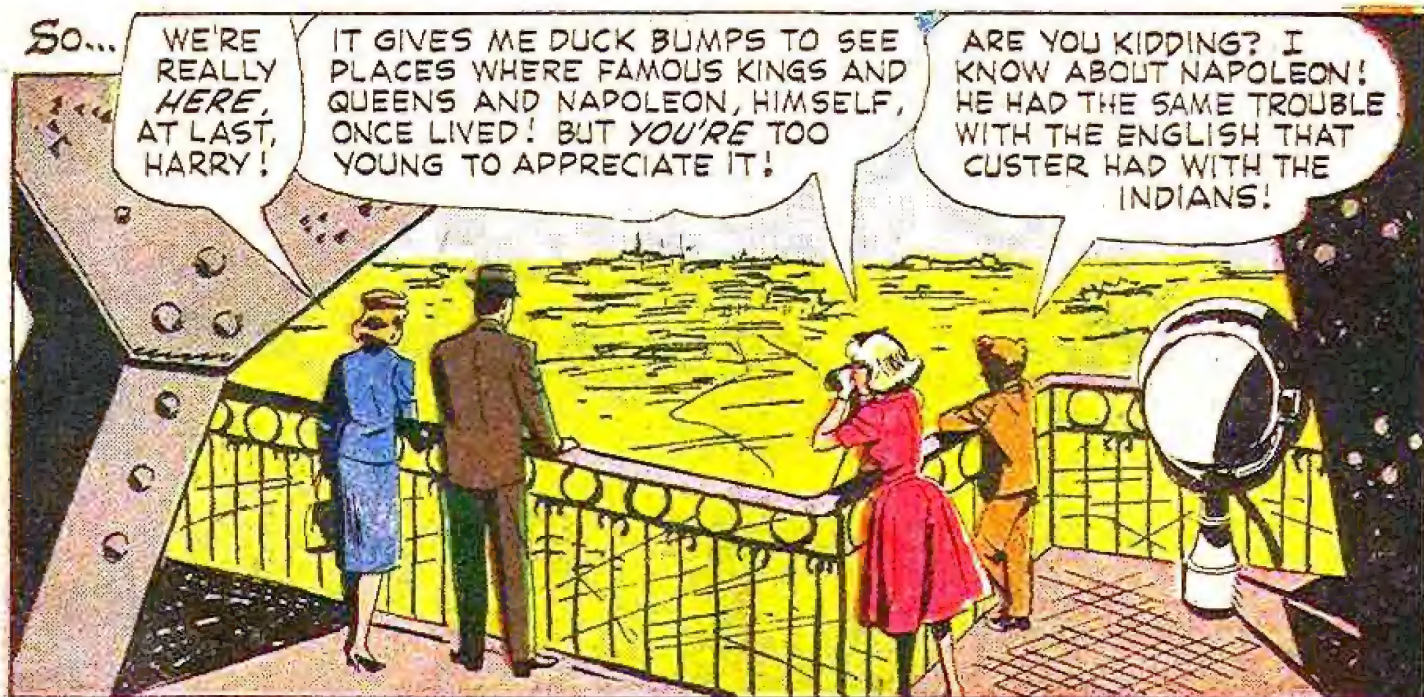
I'M GLAD! NOW,
I HAVE A
WONDERFUL
IDEA! LET'S ALL
GO TO THE TOP OF
THE EIFFEL
TOWER AND
WATCH THE
SUNSET!

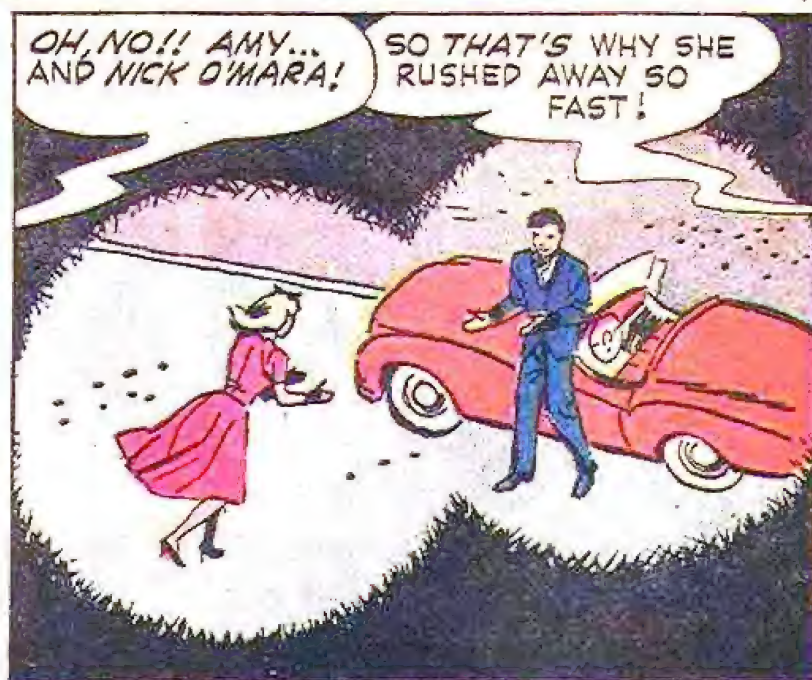
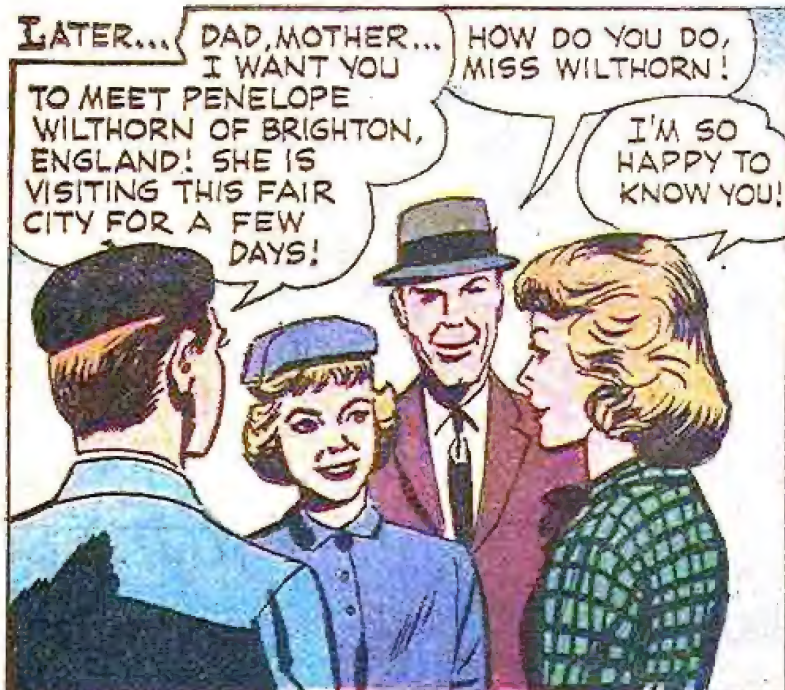


SOUNDS GREAT,
DOESN'T IT,
ELLIOTT?

IT OUGHT TO
BE A REAL
BLAST!







NEXT
MORNING...

NICK MAKES ME *FURIOUS*...
COMING HERE INSTEAD OF GOING TO
LONDON! THE *GREAT NICK O'MARA*
WON'T EVEN TRY TO GET A *JOB* IN
SOME ARCHITECT'S OFFICE! SAYS
HE'LL START AT THE *TOP* ...
OR NOWHERE!



HE SAYS HE WILL *NOT* BECOME
AN EIGHT-HOUR-A-DAY *VEGETABLE*,
EVEN TO PLEASE *ME*! I TOLD
HIM I DON'T CARE *WHAT* HE
BECOMES...OR IF HE LIVES
OFF HIS RICH MOTHER
FOREVER!



NICK'S REALLY *GOOD* AND *CONSIDERATE*,
POP...EVEN IF HE IS *WEAK* AND *MIXED-UP*!
BUT I'VE MADE UP MY
MIND TO *FORGET* HIM!

I'M GLAD TO
HEAR THAT,
AMY!



YOU CAN START
FORGETTING THIS
MORNING! WE'LL
ALL GO TO THE
LOUVRE...

I CAN'T POP! NICK
HAS RESERVATIONS
FOR LUNCH AT A
WONDERFUL LITTLE
RESTAURANT NEAR
VERSAILLES!



THE OTHER THREE WILLARDS ARRIVE,
AS AMY DEPARTS TO MEET NICK...

SIT DOWN AND HAVE
SOME BREAKFAST!
THEN WE'LL ALL GO
TO THE
LOUVRE!

I CAN'T, DEAR! I'VE
BEEN INVITED TO A
FABULOUS FASHION
SHOWING! SEE YOU AT
DINNER!



COUNT ME OUT, TOO, POP! I'M
TAKING PENELOPE TO THE
STUDENT QUARTER ON
THE LEFT BANK!



I HAD BREAKFAST HOURS AGO! I WAS UP AT DAWN...WATCHED THE SUNRISE... WALKED ALONG THE RIVER! I WISH YOU'D GET OFF THIS *TOURIST BEAT*, POP... AND FIND THE *REAL* PARIS!



THEN HARRY AND SKIPPER ARE ALONE...

HAVE YOU MADE ANY PLANS, SON?

I'M WITH YOU, POP! ANYTHING YOU SAY ... AFTER I FIND SOMETHING TO EAT IN THIS PLACE!



A LITTLE LATER...

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE WALK AROUND AWHILE... THEN GO TO THE LOUVRE!

OKAY BY ME! YOU'RE THE BOSS, POP!



YOU'LL ENJOY THE LOUVRE, SKIP! ALL MY LIFE I'VE WANTED TO SEE IT! WHAT'S THAT PAPER?

MARCEL, THE HOTEL DOORMAN, WROTE DOWN SOME STUFF FOR ME!



YOU WANT TO GO TO THE LOUVRE, DON'T YOU?

SURE, POP! BUT I'M AFRAID WE'LL MISS THE *SEWERS*! THEY'RE VERY FAMOUS, YOU KNOW!



THE POLICE WON'T LET US WANDER AROUND THE SEWERS, SKIP!

MARCEL SAID THERE IS A SPECIAL TOUR ONCE A WEEK! IT'S DUE TO LEAVE IN *TEN MINUTES*! LET'S HURRY, POP!



SO HARRY AND SKIPPER JOIN THE TOUR THROUGH THE SEWERS OF PARIS! AFTER A LONG BOAT RIDE, THE TOURISTS DISEMBARK ON AN UNDERGROUND QUAY...



I'M TIRED OF LISTENING TO H/M LECTURE! THINK I'LL DO A LITTLE EXPLORING!

SKIPPER EXCITEDLY STARTS OUT TO EXPLORE THE LABYRINTH OF UNDERGROUND TUNNELS...



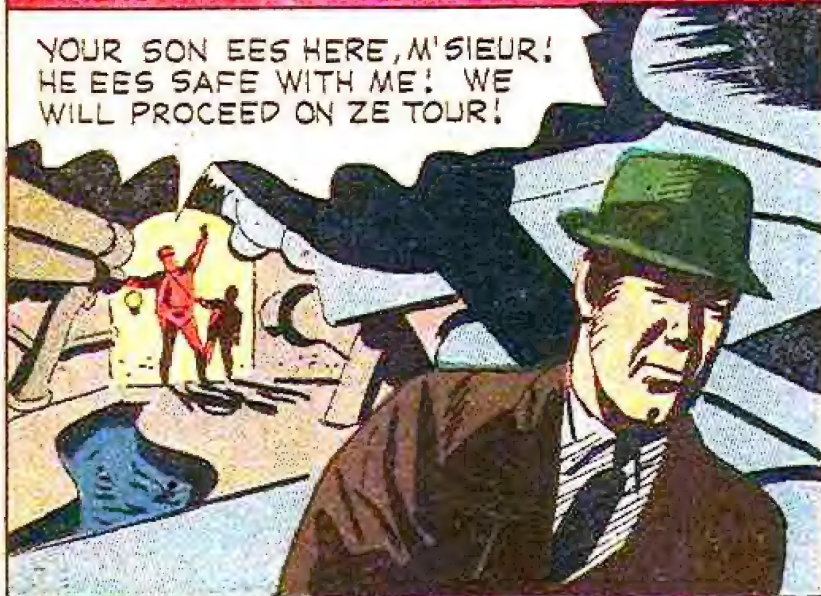
WHEN THE LECTURE ENDS, HARRY DISCOVERS SKIPPER IS MISSING...



EES SOMETHING WRONG, M'SIEUR?

MY SON'S GONE! BUT I'LL FIND HIM IN A JIFFY! HE CAN'T BE FAR AWAY!

AS HARRY WALKS INTO ONE TUNNEL, SKIPPER WALKS OUT OF ANOTHER ONE...



YOUR SON EES HERE, M'SIEUR! HE EES SAFE WITH ME! WE WILL PROCEED ON ZE TOUR!

BUT HARRY DOES NOT HEAR THE GUIDE'S SHOUTS...

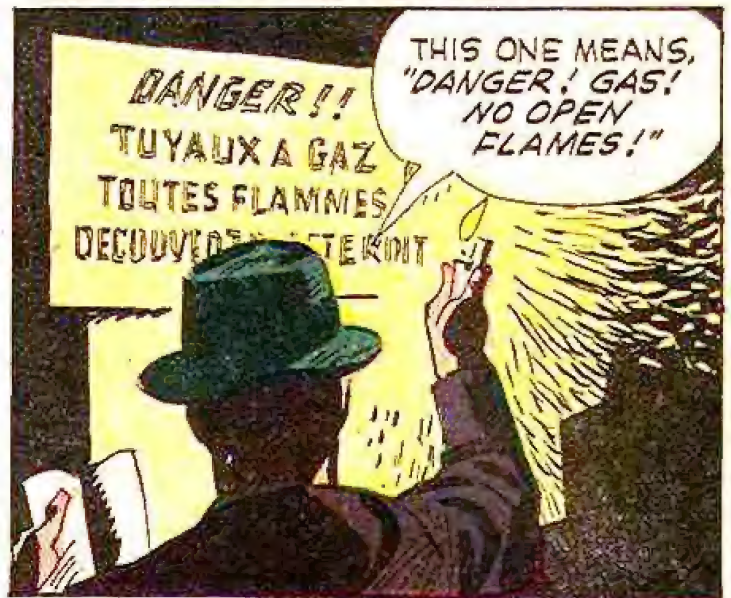


SKIPPER! ANSWER ME! WHERE ARE YOU? SKIPPER!!

NOW HARRY IS COMPLETELY LOST, BUT HE HAS HIS POCKET-SIZE FRENCH-ENGLISH PHRASE BOOK...



HE RUNS INTO ANOTHER TUNNEL AND STOPS AT ANOTHER SIGN...



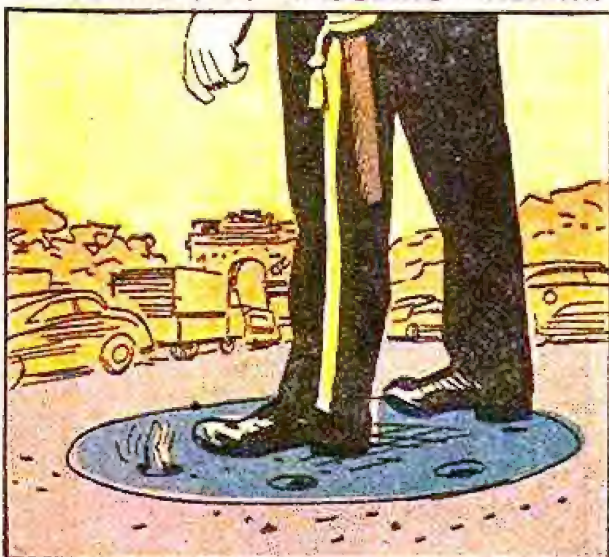
THE PANIC-STRICKEN HARRY RACES INTO ANOTHER TUNNEL... AND SUDDENLY, HE HEARS THE SOUND OF TRAFFIC OVERHEAD...



THEN HE SEES A MANHOLE COVER AND DESPERATELY TRIES TO PUSH IT OPEN...

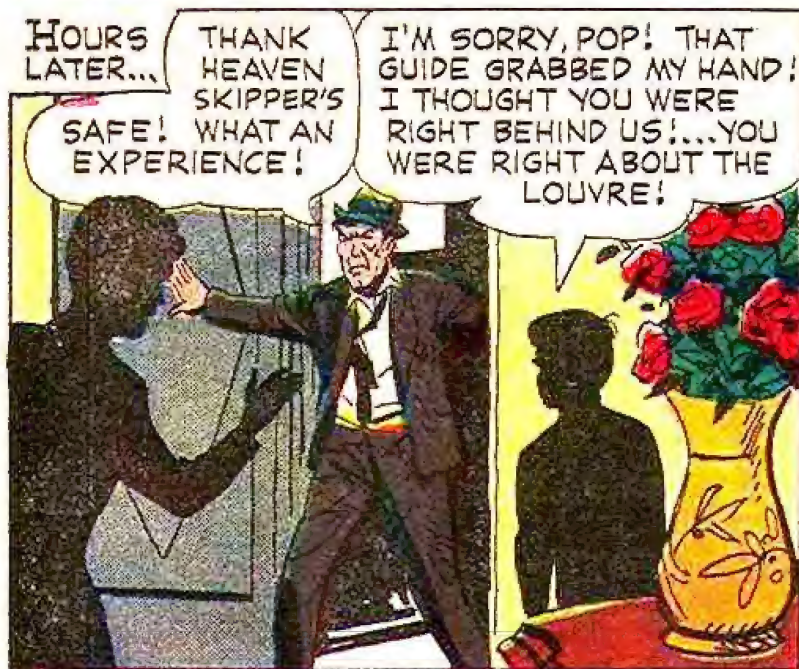
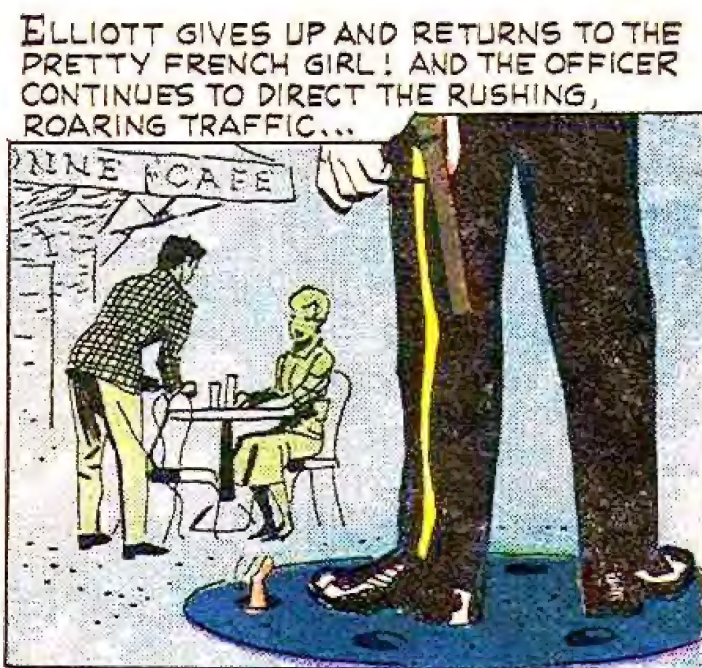


THAT "SOMEBODY" IS A TRAFFIC OFFICER WHO DOES NOT HEAR HARRY'S SHOUTS OR SEE HIS FRANTICALLY WAGGLING FINGER...



HARRY'S SHOUTS ARE DROWNED IN THE ROAR OF TRAFFIC, BUT HIS MOVING FINGER IS FINALLY SEEN...





THE DAYS PASS QUICKLY FOR THE FIVE WILLARDS! HARRY, KATIE, AND SKIPPER VISIT ALL THE FAMOUS PLACES, UNASHAMEDLY ACTING LIKE EAGER TOURISTS...



THEN, ONE DAY...

KATIE! WHAT HAPPENED?
YOUR BEAUTIFUL LONG
HAIR IS *GONE*!

IT'S THE
LATEST PARIS
HAIR-DO! ISN'T
IT EXCITING?



MOTHER! YOU'RE HAIR IS *STUNNING*!
YOU'LL BE A *SENSATION* AT THE
CONTESSE DUFRESNE'S PARTY TONIGHT!
THE CONTESSE IS NICK'S MOTHER! SHE
HEARD ABOUT NICK AND ME AND WANTS
TO MEET MY FAMILY!



THE CONTESSE DUFRESNE'S PARTY IS IN FULL SWING WHEN THE THREE
WILLARDS ARRIVE. NICK INTRODUCES THEM TO HIS MOTHER...

DARLINGS... YOU'RE PRECIOUS... MRS. WILLARD, SO ADORABLE...
MR. WILLARD, SO TALL AND HANDSOME... AND AMY, SO BEAUTIFUL...
NO WONDER YOU'VE CHARMED MY DARLING NICHOLAS!



WHY, YOU'VE EVEN MADE HIM
CONSIDER *GOING TO WORK* IN
SOME DREARY ARCHITECT'S
OFFICE IN THE STATES!

CUT IT OUT,
MOTHER!



I TOLD HIM, IF YOU DON'T LIKE *MY*
MONEY AND WANT TO EARN A BIT OF
YOUR OWN, I CAN ARRANGE FOR YOU
TO BUILD *LOVELY BUILDINGS* IN
EUROPE!



DARLING NICHOLAS, IF YOU WISH TO MARRY THIS LOVELY CHILD, I WILL ARRANGE A GAY, BEAUTIFUL WEDDING... IT WILL BRIGHTEN THIS DULL SEASON!

STOP, MOTHER! YOU'D BETTER LOOK AFTER YOUR GUESTS!



THE CONTESSE SWEEPS AWAY...

MOTHER'S A BIZARRE OLD GIRL... BUT SHE'S SMART, AMY! SHE AND I KNOW I'D FAIL IN A REGULAR JOB!

YOU CAN'T KNOW UNLESS YOU TRY, NICK!



IN THE MEANTIME, KATIE IS DANCING WITH A HANDSOME GENTLEMAN, NAMED RUDOLPH...

LET US GO INTO THE GARDEN! YOUR BEAUTY BELONGS TO THE MOONLIGHT, NOT TO THIS CROWDED ROOM!

NO... PLEASE...!



I BELIEVE THIS IS OUR DANCE, KATIE! IF THE GENTLEMAN WILL STEP ASIDE...

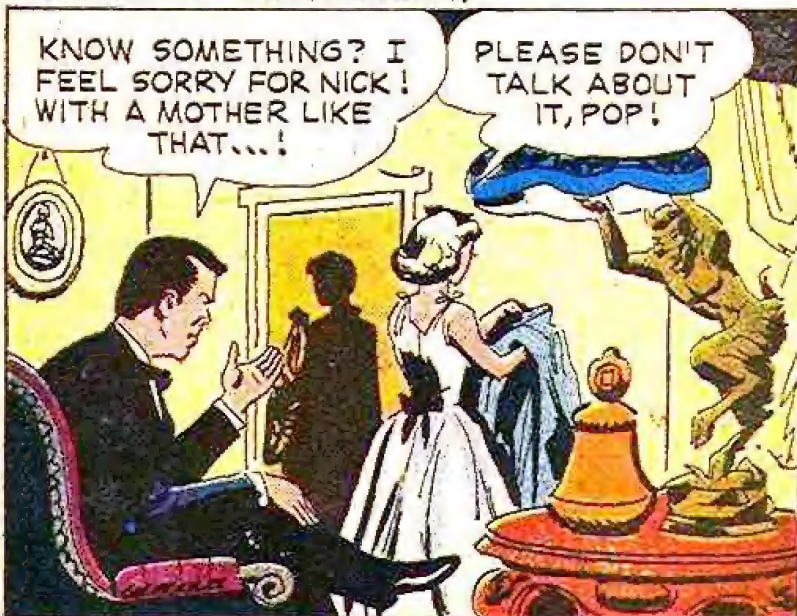
OF COURSE! M'SIEUR WILLARD HAS FIRST CLAIM ON HIS SO-LOVELY WIFE! ADIEU, MADAME... UNTIL LATER...!



HOURS LATER, THE WEARY WILLARDS RETURN TO THEIR HOTEL...

KNOW SOMETHING? I FEEL SORRY FOR NICK! WITH A MOTHER LIKE THAT...!

PLEASE DON'T TALK ABOUT IT, POP!



IF NICK HAD AN OUNCE OF GUMPTION, HE'D BREAK AWAY AND MAKE A LIFE OF HIS OWN!

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE BREAK AWAY FROM PARIS AND GO TO CANNES?



SO THEY GO TO CANNES...

THIS IS WONDERFUL, SKIP! I'M SURE GLAD WE GOT AWAY FROM PARIS... BUT I NEVER DID SEE THE LOUVRE!

EVERYBODY'S HAVING A GOOD
TIME HERE! TAKE A LOOK AT
ELLIOTT, POP! I'LL BET HE'S
TELLING THAT GIRL HOW
RICH AND UNHAPPY HE IS!

EVEN AMY
SEEMS TO BE
HAPPY
WITHOUT
NICK!

YEP! THERE SHE IS
NOW! *WOW!* LOOK AT
HER NEW BATHING
SUIT!

YOU SPOKE TOO SOON,
POP! THERE'S NICK NOW!
HE LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE!

I'M AFRAID THIS IS
THE END OF OUR
PEACE AND QUIET,
SKIP!

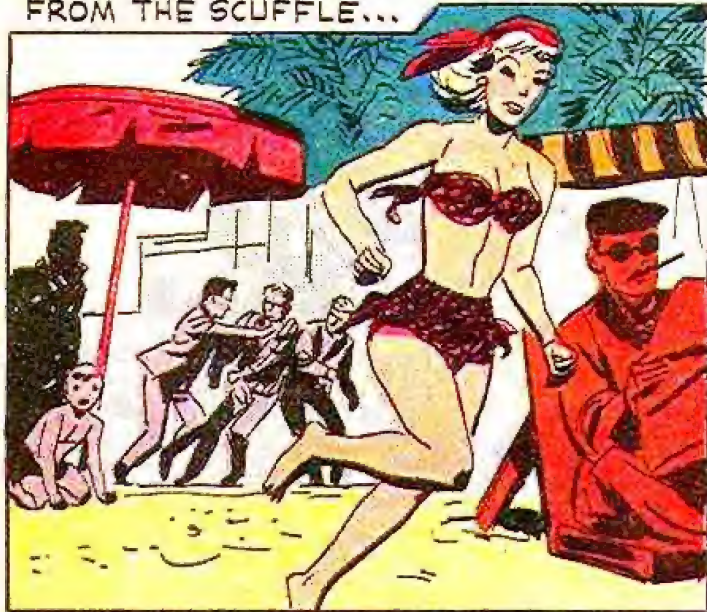
WELL...WHERE DID
YOU COME FROM?
PLEASE STEP OUT
OF MY WAY!

KINDLY SHUT UP AND GO
BACK TO YOUR HOTEL AND
PUT ON SOME CLOTHES!

DO AS MADEMOISELLE WISHES,
AND STEP OUT OF HER WAY,
M'SIEUR! YOU ARE BECOMING
A NUISANCE!

YOU'RE WRONG,
MISTER! YOU'RE
THE NUISANCE!!

AS NICK ANGRILY SHOVES THE TWO YOUNG MEN OUT OF HIS WAY, AMY FLEES FROM THE SCUFFLE...



SHE DIVES INTO THE WATER AND SWIMS OUT TO SEA...



I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND, M'SIEUR!

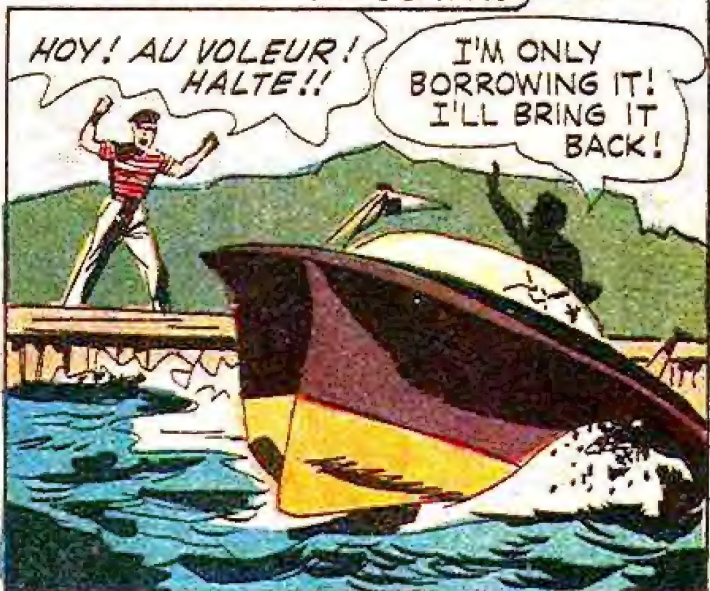
MERCI...
THANK YOU...!



NICK PULLS THE MAN ONTO THE QUAY AND JUMPS INTO THE BOAT...

HOY! AU VOLEUR!
HALTE!!

I'M ONLY
BORROWING IT!
I'LL BRING IT
BACK!



NICK CLOSES IN ON AMY AND PULLS HER ABOARD THE BOAT...

LET
ME
GO!

FIRST, YOU TELL ME WHY
YOU'RE WEARING THAT STUPID
BATHING SUIT AND ACTING LIKE
A BRAZEN
FLIRT!

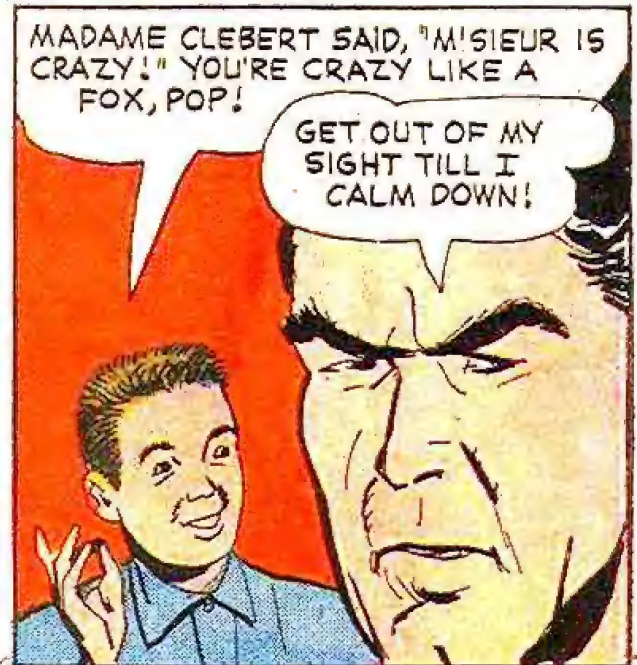


I WAS TRYING TO
BE LIKE THE OTHER
GIRLS AT YOUR
MOTHER'S PARTY...
THE KIND OF GIRL
YOU LIKE!

YOU'RE DUMBER
THAN I THOUGHT!
YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY ARE HICKS!
YOU DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT
REAL LIFE!







IT IS THEIR LAST NIGHT IN CANNES, AND HARRY AND KATIE PLAN A WONDERFUL EVENING, STARTING AT A FAMOUS CASINO...



KATIE STOPS FOR A MOMENT TO WATCH THE ROULETTE PLAYERS, WHILE HARRY WANDERS AROUND THE ROOM...



UP TO YOUR
OLD TRICKS, I
SEE, RUDOLPH!

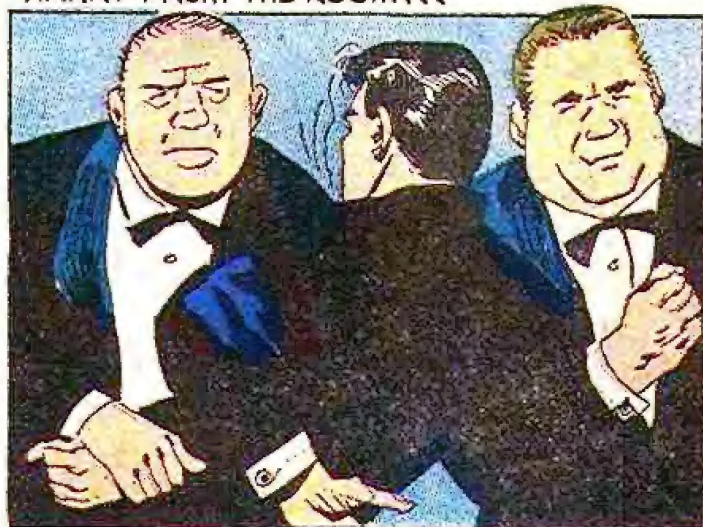
DO NOT MAKE THE
VIOLENCE, M'SIEUR!
I AM STRONG!
WITH MY BARE
HANDS I CAN...



HERE'S WHAT I CAN DO
WITH MY BARE HANDS!



AS THE SHOCKED KATIE AND THE OTHER GUESTS WATCH IN STUNNED STILLNESS, TWO MEN SILENTLY DRAG HARRY FROM THE ROOM...



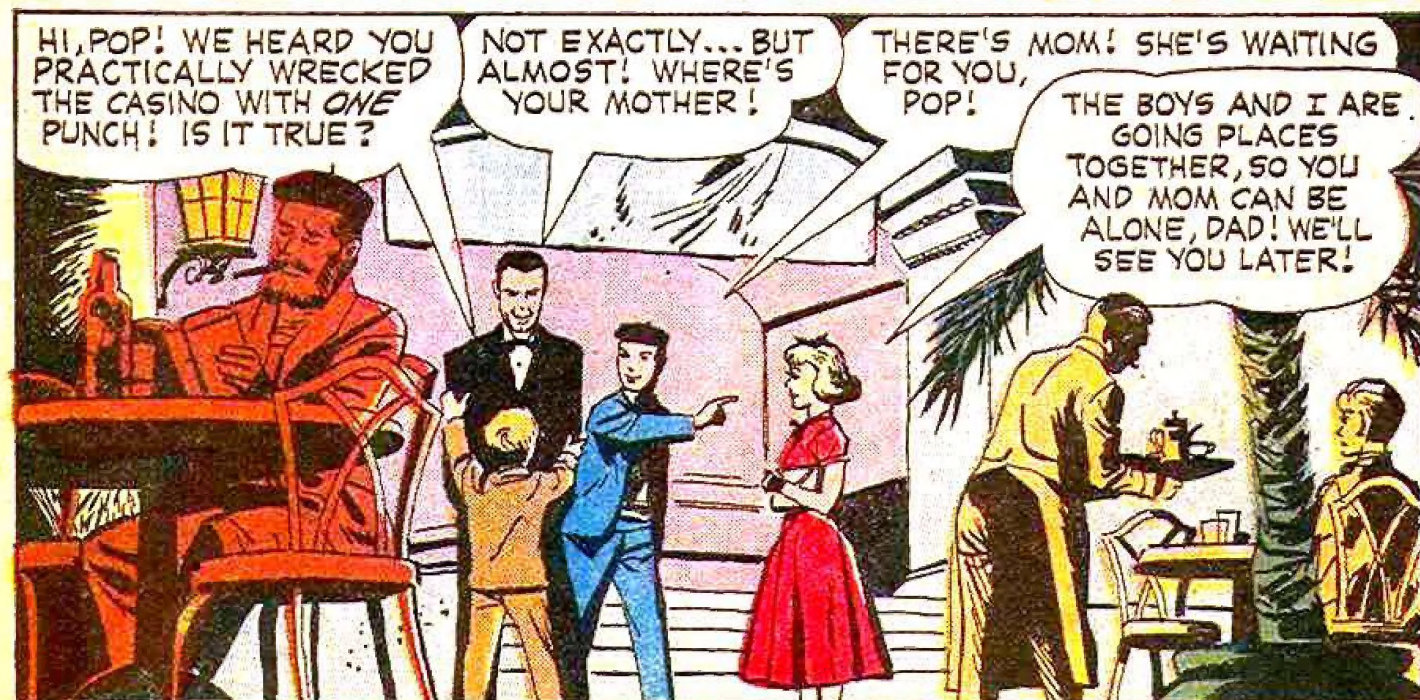
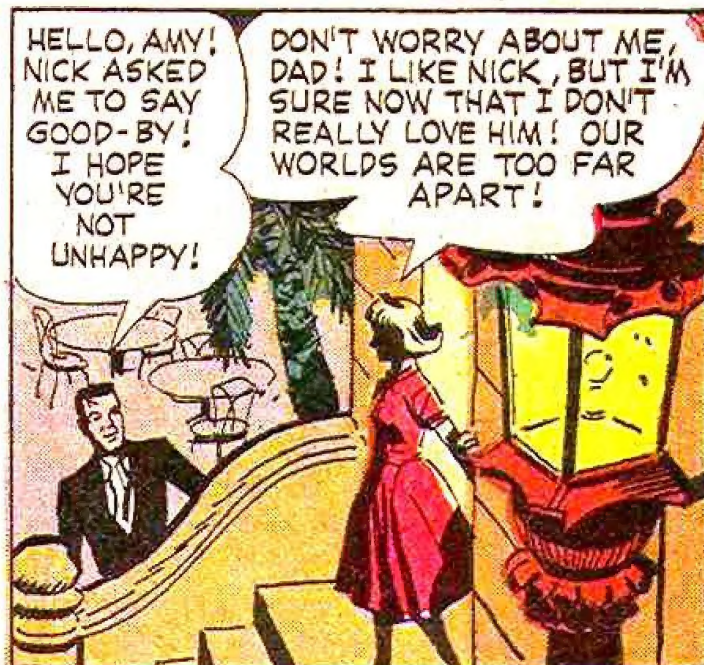
THE MEN DEPOSIT HARRY IN AN ALLEY AND DEPART, JUST AS THE HEADLIGHTS OF AN APPROACHING CAR APPEAR IN THE DARKNESS...

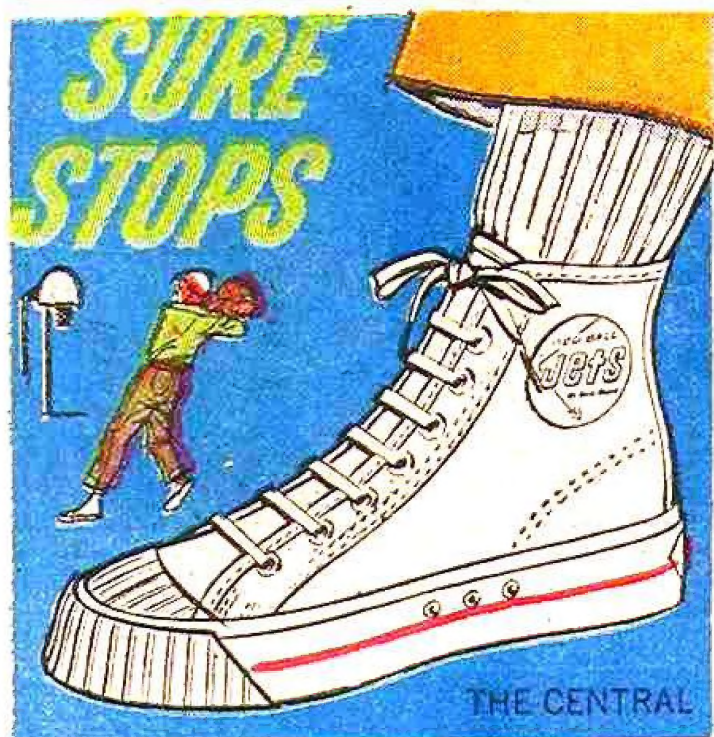
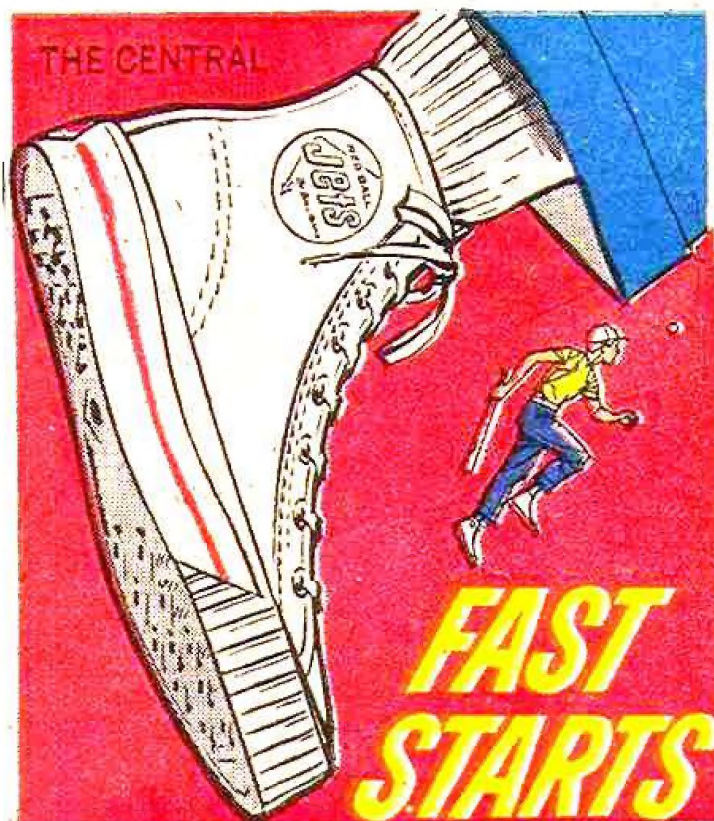


HOW DID YOU
GET HERE,
NICK?

I WAS IN THE CASINO
AND SAW WHAT WAS
HAPPENING! I SENT
MRS. WILLARD TO HER
HOTEL IN A TAXI AND
CAME LOOKING
FOR YOU!

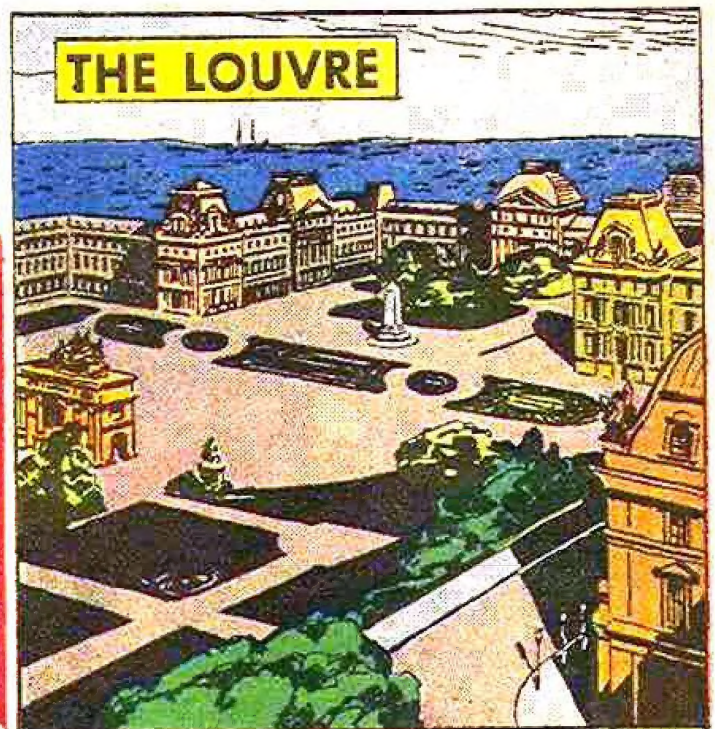






You're Jet propelled in Red Ball Jets. Thick, long-wearing, ground-grippin' soles get you off like a rocket . . . stop you on a dime anytime! And what comfort! Jets "Arch-Gard" cushions the foot, puts spring in your step. So if you play to win, play in JETS. Look for the Red Ball when you buy.

Red Ball JETS
by Ball-Band, Mishawaka, Indiana
LOOK FOR THE RED BALL

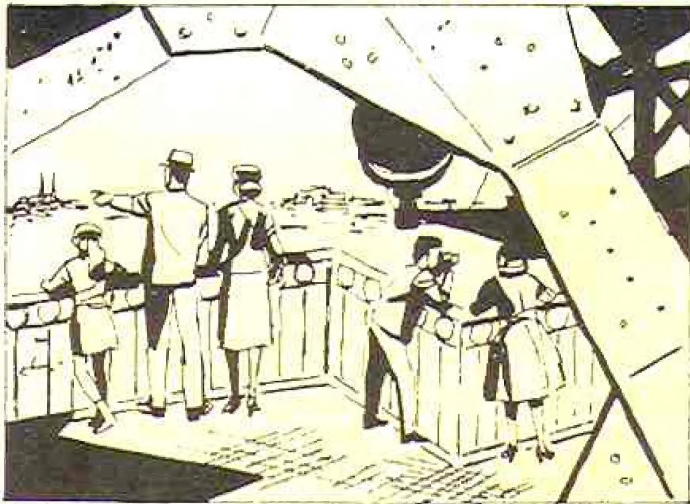


The Louvre is a 45-acre treasure house of art and history that extends for half a mile along the River Seine in Paris. Originally a fort in 1204, it became an arsenal, then a prison, and finally a palace for French kings, who turned it into a museum in 1793.

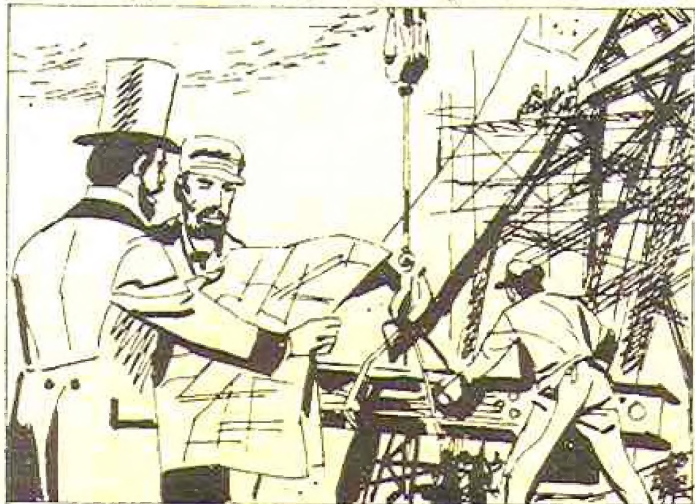


It houses many galleries, and each gallery seems to outbid the others for beauty and fame. Paintings like the *Mona Lisa* and sculpture like the 2,200-year-old *Venus de Milo* delight the visitors; yet, modern art in its newest forms is there for the interest of its lovers.

MONSIEUR EIFFEL'S FOLLY



When they first arrive in Paris, all good tourists like the Willards hasten to the Eiffel Tower, take the elevator up to the second or third level, and gaze at the view. To many, the tower is the symbol of Paris.



Monsieur Eiffel met the challenge. It took three years to build his tower, and when it was finished it thrust 984 feet into the air. At the time, it was the tallest building in the world and indeed impressive.



Strangely enough, this enduring symbol was never meant to be a permanent building. Monsieur Gustave Eiffel, an engineer, was commissioned to design and build something impressive for the great Exposition of 1889.



Many Parisians simply hated the tower. They said it was ugly and called it "Eiffel's Folly." They formed committees and held meetings—and waited for the Exposition to end so that the tower could be torn down.



About 1900, however, radio came into its own. None could deny that Eiffel's rather bizarre structure was admirably suited to fill a special need. It became a great wireless mast! So the restaurants on the

second and third levels continue to serve the visitors who flock to the tower, to eat and drink and admire the view. For a temporary building, Monsieur Eiffel's tower has turned out to be remarkably permanent!

THE BASTILLE



The Willards were fortunate to be in France on July 14th — the day the French people celebrate their freedom from tyranny, for July 14th, "Bastille Day," is a time of merrymaking, with dancing in the streets.



To the poor people of Paris, the symbol of the king's absolute power was a crumbling, 400-year-old fortress called the Bastille. It was used partly as a prison for political prisoners — those who criticized the state.



The time was ripe for revolution. On the 14th of July, 1789, 600 Parisians attacked the Bastille, overcame the guards, and freed the prisoners. No one cared that the notorious prison held only 13 captives.



It all began back in 1789. King Louis XVI and his queen, Marie Antoinette, were living in luxury at Versailles while many of the people were starving. There was bitter resentment against the king and his court.



The most terrifying thing about the Bastille was the fact that one could be imprisoned there without trial. Simply at the word of the king, people vanished behind the grim stone walls. Some were never freed again.



The rebels had destroyed the symbol of tyranny. The revolution had begun, and the king's power was broken forever. So the people danced in the streets, and since then they dance every 14th of July — Bastille Day!